



**Final Minutes of the
Miracle Mile Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting - 20th meeting**

March 25, 2004, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Flowing Wells Irrigation District
3901 N. Fairview
Tucson, Arizona 85705

E-II-5240.18.6.1.2

CAB Members Present: Gary Abrams, Netty Buras, David Crockett, George Hembree , Manuel Ramirez

CAB Members Absent: Pauline Massie, Jan Randolph

ADEQ Staff Present: Matt Doolen, Project Manager; SRO; Eileen Palese, Community Involvement Coordinator, SRO

Members of the Public Present: none

The meeting began at 6:40 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Co-chair Gary Abrams conducted introductions.

2. Approval of Minutes for 10/16/03 CAB Meeting

David Crockett motioned to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2003, meeting; Gary Abrams seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the CAB; all in favor, none opposed.

3. Vote to Accept Resignation: Frances Feld

Eileen Palese said Frances Feld submitted a letter of resignation to ADEQ. She has moved out of the area. Gary Abrams motioned to accept her resignation; George Hembree seconded the motion. The CAB voted to accept the resignation of Frances Feld; all were in favor, none opposed.

4. Site Investigation Update/Q&A

Matt Doolen presented an update on site activities and on the routine groundwater monitoring. He displayed a map of the water table for the regional aquifer, pointing out the flow direction (southeast to northwest). He said this shift is different than seen in the past, which he believes could be caused by the operation of a Flowing Wells Irrigation District production well which tends to draw groundwater in the direction of the pumping.

CAB members asked questions about how the drought would affect the groundwater flow. Matt Doolen said that eventually the drought might affect the flow direction, but to this point, the results seem to be caused from the production well pumping. He said they are also seeing some changes in the way the contaminant plume is moving and changes in the levels of the concentrations. He said sampling results show declines in wells that previously had high levels of PCE contamination, and a similar decline in chromium, which he attributes to the change in groundwater flow direction. He displayed a TCE plume map from December 2003 to illustrate the changes.

CAB members asked questions about pumping and how it would affect the plume. He said that the plume location is important because ADEQ is seeking access from Pima County to install an additional monitor well on the right-of-way off Wetmore and La Cholla. He said last year Pima County denied one of the well location requests because of a concern about the well becoming an impediment to the surface water flow in a residential area. He said they hope to install the well within the next six weeks, if access is granted.

Matt Doolen updated the CAB about cleanup work at the former Spring Joint property on Romeo Road, just north of Prince Road, where hydrologic cylinder maintenance and chrome plating operations took place in the 1970s. He said the owner of the property is attempting to clean up the property to sell it. The owners hired an environmental consulting company which found significant chromium in the soil. He said that chromium (VI), or hexavalent chromium, which is a hazardous substance not found in nature, was detected. He said the contamination can be seen in the soil, appearing as a bright orange/yellow substance. He said the consultants did work in January, which included a soil characterization. They also installed three groundwater monitor wells to the perched aquifer and they sampled the soils and the groundwater for chromium, sharing the results with ADEQ. He said they sampled for both types of chromium (hexavalent and total chromium). He explained the soil remediation levels and said they did find several areas where hexavalent chromium exceeded regulatory levels. He said because of these high levels of chromium contamination in the soils, the property owner has realized that it will now take quite an investment to cleanup the site and he does not have the funds to continue the investigation.

Matt Doolen said he asked the property owner if ADEQ can go onto the property to continue the investigation. He is waiting for a reply. He said there may also be other undefined areas of contamination and clearly a lot of work needs to be done. He said the adjacent property and the current tenant, Rental Service Corporation, has lawyers and environmental consultants reviewing the Spring Joint data. They are concerned about chromium exposure and some of their employees previously reported headaches and other physical complaints while at work. Some initial sampling of surfaces in the work areas did detect hexavalent chromium in the dust. He said the building has never been cleaned and is not sure how long the structure has been in place.

Matt Doolen said that if the Spring Joint site is a continuing source of chromium for the aquifer, it has to be dealt with. He said so far, only one well in the perched aquifer has a chromium detection, so it is not a problem. This could become a contaminant of concern in the future, but right now TCE is much more prevalent than chromium, especially in the regional aquifer. He said the Spring Joint consultants did not sample the shallow soils, so ADEQ is concerned about the soils as a source of airborne contamination. Samples have not been taken at other businesses in the area. He said all of this contamination needs to be addressed before moving to the ADEQ Feasibility Study.

Matt Doolen reported that ADEQ now has an access agreement with Abrams Airborne Manufacturing to perform sampling on the property of the soil and the groundwater. The ADEQ sampling plan has been reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). After comments are received, a work plan will be determined.

He reported that the draft Remedial Investigation (RI) report will now be delayed to include the investigation at Spring Joint, and this could take several months, pushing the final report to the end of the year.

5. Call to the Public

No public present.

6. Continuation of CAB Vision Statement Discussion

Eileen Palese said that Jan Randolph had previously requested this agenda item. Netty Buras and Pauline Massie had not had the opportunity to contribute to this discussion. The CAB decided to table this item until the next meeting since Jan Randolph was not present.

7. CAB Discussion on Membership Recruitment

The CAB discussed ways to encourage participation on the board from the community. Currently the CAB has seven members, which would mean that four people would constitute a quorum. It was suggested that someone should again appeal to the Flowing Wells Neighborhood Coalition. The CAB discussed local business participation. The CAB decided that until ADEQ is closer to releasing the draft RI, it will be hard to interest anyone in joining the board. David Crockett suggested that Dennis McHughes, General Manager of Rental Service Corporation, be added to mailing list for the site.

8. Other Administrative Business

Eileen Palese said that the Manny Ramirez was appointed by the Governor to serve on the WQARF Advisory Board to represent Tucson. The first meeting is tomorrow and she invited the CAB to attend. She said the board has invited CAB co-chairs to present to the group in the past. She also mentioned the Children's Environmental Health forum being held in Tucson on April 23, 2004, at the Manning House. She invited any CAB members to attend, if interested.

9. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion

The next meeting of the Miracle Mile Community Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, August 19, 2004, at the Flowing Wells Irrigation District, 3901 N. Fairview, in Tucson. Call Eileen Palese, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, at (520) 628-6712 for more information.

10. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tape(s), or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.